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Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1867.

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No. 18,543. 號二十四百八千一第 日七初月九年午戊 HONGKONG, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 1918. 五拜禮 號一十月十年七國民華中 PRICE \$3 PER MONTH.

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PEAK TRAMWAY COMPANY,
LIMITED.

TIME-TABLE

WEEK DAYS	WEEK DAYS
7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes	7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes
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are not already full, running at the time
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has been made in Bank Notes or by Cheque
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JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

TIME-TABLE.

On and after MONDAY, 10th JUNE, 1918, until further Notice.

DOWN TRAINS.

Stations		No. 1 Through Express A.M.	No. 2 Local A.M.	No. 3 Through Express H.W.	No. 4 Local A.M.	No. 5 Through Express P.M.	No. 6 Local P.M.	No. 7 Through Express P.M.	No. 8 Local P.M.	No. 9 Through Express P.M.	No. 10 Local P.M.	No. 11 Through Express P.M.	No. 12 Local P.M.	No. 13 Through Express P.M.	No. 14 Local P.M.	No. 15 Through Express P.M.	No. 16 Local P.M.	No. 17 Through Express P.M.	No. 18 Local P.M.	No. 19 Through Express P.M.	No. 20 Local P.M.
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BRIDGE LUNG	Dep.	7:20		6:50																	
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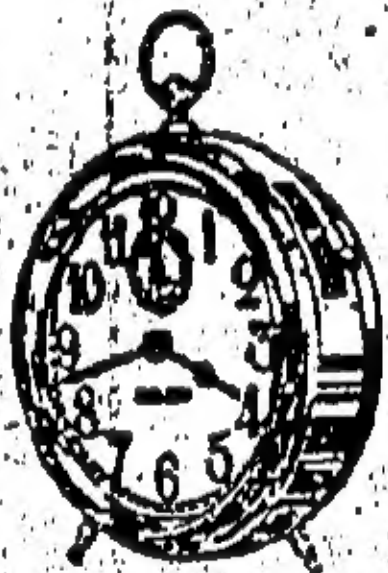
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(3235)

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CLOSES IN AMERICA 19TH OCT.

Applications will be received by THE INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION up to 15th October on the following terms:—

- 10% on application
- 20% " 2nd November.
- 20% " 10th December.
- 20% " 16th January.
- 30% " 30th January.

and loans will be granted against this security to enable purchasers to pay in instalments covering longer periods. Particulars and forms on application.

(3235)

THE APPEAL COUNCIL MESSRS. RITCHIE AND SYME THOMSON EXEMPTED MR. BIRRELL TO BE ENROLLED.

A meeting of the Appeal Council was held in the Council Chamber yesterday. H.E. the Officer Administering the Government presided and there were also present: H.E. the General Officer Commanding, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher), the Attorney-General (Hon. Mr. J. H. Kemp, C.B.E.), the Colonial Treasurer (Hon. Mr. A. M. Thompson), the Director of Public Works (Hon. Mr. T. L. Perkins), the Secretary for Chinese Affairs (Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, O.B.E.), and the three Assessors—Hon. Mr. P. H. Molyneux, Mr. N. J. Stubb, O.B.E., and Mr. C. H. P. Hay.

Three appeals were heard—one by Messrs. Dodwell & Co. against the enrolment of Mr. F. Syme Thomson, one by Messrs. Gerin, Drevard & Co. against the enrolment of Mr. J. D. Birrell, and the third by the International Banking Corporation against the enrolment of Mr. D. Ritchie. In the case of Mr. Birrell the decision of the Tribunal was upheld. In the other two cases the Tribunal's decisions were reversed and both Mr. Syme Thomson and Mr. Ritchie were granted total exemption.

MESSRS. DODWELL & CO.
The first case considered was that of Messrs. Dodwell & Co.—Mr. S. H. Dodwell appeared on behalf of the Company.

Mr. Dodwell—I will state my case and then answer any questions that the Council may wish to ask. The decision of the Military Service Tribunal in Mr. Thomson's case is fraught with such serious consequences to my firm that I am going to take the unusual course of admitting frankly that I feel its adverse nature was due to my anticipation that further exemption, at any rate, would be a practical certainty, and to my consequently not emphasizing sufficiently, in my evidence, Mr. Thomson's value to us. In spite of the fact that our firm has already sent 70 members of its staff to join the Allied Forces, I ask you to bear in mind that I realise to the fullest extent what a serious matter it is to stand in the way of a young man going home to fight, and I wished the Tribunal to appreciate this. I said that if Mr. Thomson were granted further exemption I would do my utmost afterwards to carry on with the new man, Mr. Culter, and I am afraid that the Tribunal came to the conclusion from this that Mr. Thomson's services were really not of much value to us. The Tribunal may have been further guided—or rather misguided—by Mr. Thomson's answers to questions put to him. At the original proceedings he answered, I think it was to Mr. Landale, that he was not a piece of goods. At the last proceedings he said he was not an insurance export. I agree that he can hardly be considered either of these, but he has had 31 years' experience in our import and export department, out of which he has been two years in charge of it, and in consequence is of undoubted value to us. In answer to Mr. Adamson, Mr. Thomson said that he did not consider himself as much an expert in the import and export business as Mr. Barretto. In case this statement should lead to a misunderstanding I desire the Council to appreciate that Mr. Barretto is not an ordinary Portuguese export clerk. He is a well respected member of the Portuguese community, 43 years of age, with a lifelong experience in the business, and, naturally, with his 31 years' experience Mr. Thomson might not consider himself as expert as Mr. Barretto. But in any case, sir, if what we wrote to the Tribunal, and what I said at the proceedings, do not make it perfectly clear that we look upon Mr. Thomson as an expert in the import and export trade, I desire to emphasize that fact now. In the endeavour to make my case clear to the Council I would like to mention the chief articles of export and import in which Mr. Thomson has been engaged for 31 years. These articles, and continuing, said—Now that Mr. Barretto is leaving us, the decision of the Tribunal takes away from us the only man in our office who has any expert knowledge of these articles, and not only takes him away, but takes him away at a moment's notice. Now, sir, I think it must be apparent to anyone present in this Council Chamber, whether he be a merchant or no, that no firm could run such an important department as this without the aid of a man who is so expert in the qualities, grades, etc., of the various articles to enable him to efficiently inspect purchases and negotiate sales. I admit that business in exports and imports is restricted owing to circumstances, but there is business to be done, and what there is, I contend, should be energetically sought after by the British firms, both in the interests of the Colony and the Empire.

I would ask leave to refer the Council to a short extract of a speech made by Sir Auckland Geddes at Manchester in July last:—

"In order that we may be sure that our armies are not crushed and that they are able to stand the strain which Germany, without doubt, has the power to impose upon us, we must have men, and men for the fighting line, but not only for the fighting line, there is something more than a fighting line in an army. Behind the fighting line there are rearward services. Here in this country is the very centre, the very heart, of the Alliance, and we must retain here sufficient forces to make it absolutely useless for the Germans to attempt a raid, let alone an invasion. (Cheers). But there is something more. Our future, the future of our businesses, depend upon our position throughout the world, our prestige and our power, and while we are thinking of the forces in France and Flanders we have to remember that it is not our only interest, although it is of vital interest. But the East also calls. You know what the East means to you and to the business of England, and the East calls for men to maintain our position. And somehow out of our available man-power we have to provide, not only for production which will give the funds to carry on the war, but for the forces which will meet, and I hope and believe defeat, the German effort, and forces which will maintain our power and prestige throughout the East."

Mr. Dodwell—I did my utmost to induce him to stay. I offered him considerably more salary but he has got a partnership agreement with a Portuguese firm that is making a lot of money now. I cannot compete with that.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There is no prospect of getting any other expert assistance?

Mr. Dodwell—I don't see any likelihood at all.

Mr. Dodwell—The Portuguese firms are making so much money now that it is impossible to get an expert Portuguese.

Mr. STARR—They are gradually getting the trained men.

Hon. Mr. HOLLAND—I can absolutely corroborate that.

That was in July. Surely now the war position warrants our efforts being directed more and more towards the economic struggle that will follow. Major Morgan was agreeable to a trifling exemption, but that was not agreed to by the Tribunal. Even if Mr. Thomson had three months' exemption it seems to me an impossibility for him to impart to anyone, having no previous experience of the trade, sufficient expert knowledge to enable us to carry on with a sufficient degree of safety. Under the very best staff conditions every merchant knows it is difficult enough now to avoid claims for inferior deliveries.

There is one other point which I submit may not have been fully appreciated by the Tribunal. It is the fact that we are registered at home and pay full home income tax and excess profits tax, which in 1916 and 1917 amounted to \$200,000. I put this forward in my letter to the Tribunal as a reason why I thought we were entitled to the fullest consideration. In point of fact this home registration in our case means that by far the greater part of our profits on all trading goes towards the cost of the war, so that the decision of the Tribunal will not only jeopardise our valuable import and export trade, but will deprive the Home Government coffers of a considerable sum of money. Finally, sir, I know of no case in which the head man of the import and export department of any similar firm in the Colony has been non-exempted, and if Mr. Thomson is taken from a firm whose war record is as good as ours I submit it will be a gross injustice.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—I am sure the General Military Service Tribunal fully appreciated the latter part of your remarks regarding your firm being registered in England and the sums paid in income tax and excess profits tax. The records show that. Moreover, I cannot see any reason to doubt, from the proceedings before the Tribunal, that the members fully realised Mr. Syme Thomson's value to the firm.

Mr. Dodwell—I do not think they did. I am sure they did not.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—With regard to Mr. Adamson's question, to which you refer—

"Has Mr. Syme Thomson the expert knowledge possessed by Mr. Barretto?" and Mr. Syme Thomson's reply, "Not to the same extent; I have only been in the job three and a half years. I do not think it is contended that Mr. Syme Thomson has Mr. Barretto's expert knowledge. That does not show that the Tribunal did not recognise Mr. Syme Thomson's value to the firm."

Mr. Dodwell—They did not recognise that I cannot safely do the business of this department without him.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—The next point you make is that Mr. Thomson's enrolment is sprung upon your firm at a moment's notice. I do not think that can be suggested. Exemption was given for three months at the first hearing.

Mr. Dodwell—They did not appreciate my point. I am desirous of letting Mr. Thomson go and after the original three months' exemption was granted I telegraphed that I did not intend to resist his going. When I got back from America, however, Mr. Barretto informed me that he is leaving us. That alters the entire situation. That is how the matter was sprung upon me at a moment's notice.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER—It was Mr. Barretto who sprung it upon you?

Mr. Dodwell—Yes.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—Your point is that if Mr. Syme Thomson is enrolled there will not be a sufficient degree of safety for carrying on the department. All firms have touched a point which cannot be regarded as giving a sufficient degree of safety.

Mr. Dodwell—I cannot take the risk of doing business in that department, in present circumstances, without Mr. Thomson. How can you do business in all the articles I have enumerated if you have no one to inspect the produce which the Chinese deliver?

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—Another point is regarding the state of trade and the fact that the amount of work cannot be anything approaching what it was.

Mr. Dodwell—I would like to say, in answer to that, that I was surprised to find, on my return, that our estimated profit and loss account up to the end of September was more than it was last year.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—Would that necessarily involve a larger amount of work?

Mr. Dodwell—Certainly it would. The restricted business one does now is surrounded with pitfalls which did not exist before.

The Council considered the matter in private, and, subsequently, H.E. the Officer Administering the Government announced that it had been decided to grant Mr. Syme Thomson total exemption.

MESSRS. GERIN, DREVARD & CO.

The case of Mr. J. D. Birrell, of Messrs. Gerin, Drevard & Co., was next considered—Mr. H. W. Looker appeared on behalf of the firm and Mr. Gerin was also present.

Mr. Looker—The firm of Messrs. Gerin, Drevard & Co. were established in China in 1909. They developed a very large import and export trade, particularly, I think, in silk. They had an office in Shanghai and another in Lyons. When war broke out all their men in Lyons were taken by the French authorities and they had to close their office there. They had to close their Shanghai office for a similar reason. Mr. Gerin himself was taken and the whole business in China, which had been established for a considerable number of years and had attained a very considerable state of development, was closed down. Mr. Gerin served on the French front for two years, when he was discharged on account of illness. He then came back to China to pick up what he could of his business interests. He established himself in Shanghai, in Hongkong, in Canton and in Haiphong, and he succeeded very gradually, with great energy and perseverance, in getting back almost the whole of his business in imports and exports, running into something over millions of dollars a year. In 1916 it was suggested to him by the Chairman of the French Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai that he should extend the range of his business by going in for engineering and approach the Westinghouse people in America with this end in view. Mr. Gerin approached the Westinghouse people and finally he was given their agency. Mr. Gerin asked them to send him out an expert electrician and an engineer of experience to enable him to carry out the requirements of their agency and, also, because he wished to extend his business to include machinery and particularly electrical machinery. Up till this time Mr. Gerin had confined himself to produce. In response to this request the Westinghouse people sent him out Mr. Birrell. Mr. Birrell had had five years' experience with the Westinghouse people in electrical machinery and appliances and was an expert in that particular line. He was put in charge of the Hongkong office. He is the only man in Mr. Gerin's business who has any experience whatever of electrical appliances or anything of that description. He alone is capable of handling, promoting and dealing with the electrical business they have on foot. I understand there are already on the way four complete electrical units from the Westinghouse people—switch boards, etc. They have a couple of small engines already in stock here and stocks of various electrical accessories both in the godown here and on the way. All this is the result of the initiative of the electrical and engineering branch of the firm. The Canton establishment consists of one American who is 31 years of age and married, and three Frenchmen, of whom two are under the orders of the military authorities. One has already, I understand, seen service in Mentau. One was called up for service there but on the urgent representation of the Consul in Canton the military authorities allowed him to remain where he was. The other Frenchman is only 21 years of age. Mr. Gerin has seen two years' service at the front and the firm's French representative in Haiphong has also been on active service for two years and has been wounded. I mention these facts to convince the Council that the war services of Messrs. Gerin, Drevard & Co., as I think, have been almost unrequited in the history of any firm in the Colony, for, perhaps, in the Far East, Mr. Gerin is himself necessarily engaged in travelling round from branch to branch supervising the business propositions going forward and making arrangements for others. He is unable to devote himself to any particular branch and, of course, has no experience whatever in machinery. The firm have large contracts both on foot and contemplated with respect to machinery for the Far East and they are already carrying out various arrangements which have been entered into with the authorities in Haiphong and Saigon. Mr. Birrell joined the Defence Corps some two or three months ago, but pending the decision of the Tribunal I understand he has not been allotted to any particular company. It seems clear that he would be an extremely valuable member either of the engineers' company or on the lights, and I would submit that, at the present juncture, Mr. Birrell's services as a trained electrician are far more valuable in this Colony than if he was taken to serve as a private soldier elsewhere. There is, as the Council knows, a very serious shortage of electrical engineers, and of any engineers, and I submit the interests of the Colony would be best served by retaining him here in that capacity. I would also submit, in view of the history of the firm as detailed to the Council their previous status, the closing up when war broke out, and the efforts of Mr. Gerin to re-establish the trade when discharged from the front and to extend his range of business—that it would be extremely hard upon his firm, if, having engaged an engineer with special experience to look after the agency of this large American engineering concern, that man should be taken away from them. It would mean, as I am interested, that this department would have to be closed down. I submit that the war services of the firm are such as will be readily recognised by the Council and that the Council will not penalise either the firm's patriotism or

their energy and perseverance in rebuilding this business by taking away from them the expert engaged since the war and whose department is regarded as an important item in the re-establishment of their trade. I submit that it is only right in these circumstances to give Mr. Birrell total exemption.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—You did not appear for the firm before the Tribunal?

Mr. Looker—No.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—Were all the points you have put before us just now put before the Tribunal by Mr. Birrell?

Mr. Looker—The only knowledge I have of what was put before the Tribunal I have obtained from the newspaper reports. The proceedings seem chiefly to have been confined to what I would consider to be the minor, rather than the major, grounds for exemption.

On the first occasion Mr. Birrell was before the Tribunal he was exempted to make arrangements. That was confirmed by the statement made by the Chairman at the opening of the second hearing. It would appear to me that the Tribunal recognised that it was desirable that arrangements should be made for this engineering branch of the business to be continued, and I think it is generally understood by the public that where a person is given time to make arrangements and is unable to make them the Tribunal recognises that by giving a further exemption. It is well known that it is absolutely impossible to replace a qualified engineer in the Colony. That class of man does not exist in the Colony except in present employment.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—During the proceedings before the Tribunal, Mr. Birrell told the Chairman that there were three Europeans in the Hongkong office, and a great deal more than the Tribunal allowed to remain in all cases. Subsequently, in answer to a question, Mr. Birrell stated that his services were not required in connection with the Westinghouse Company's plant coming forward for the Hongkong Electric Company. He added that he would be responsible for seeing that it ran all right. Is anything else coming forward?

Mr. Looker—With regard to the Hongkong office, the two Europeans beside Mr. Birrell are two Swiss. The Tribunal chiefly appeared to have before it the question of plant for the Electric Company and the Dairy Farm contract. These, as a matter of fact, are projects which are in contemplation by those companies, one of which, the Electric Company, involves the putting up of a large and expensive piece of machinery manufactured by the Westinghouse people. It was thought that it would be necessary for Mr. Birrell to remain here, but now it is found that the Electric Company are perfectly competent to attend to it themselves. As for the four electrical units which are coming forward, it would be impossible for anyone, I might say, even to offer them for sale without a considerable knowledge of their working.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT—Could not Mr. Gerin remain here, or spend his time between Hongkong and Canton?

Mr. Looker—He is chiefly engaged in visiting the various branches which range from Shanghai to Saigon. It appears to be the usage on which the whole business rests, and if you take the screws out of the hinge the door is apt to get a little loose. Moreover, he has not the least notion of engineering or electricity and it would be as hopeless for him to attempt to sell these units that are coming as it would be for me.

In answer to a question on this point, Mr. Gerin said he had no knowledge except that gained in aviation work.

In reply to that there was a British and an American and a French Westinghouse Company all of which were entirely separate.

Mr. Looker—Mr. Birrell has had five years' experience with the Westinghouse concern whose agency Mr. Gerin has now secured. That agency, of course, will inevitably be absolutely in abeyance and will probably be given to someone else if Mr. Birrell is taken.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER—Exemption can only be claimed on the ground that the party is essential to British trade in the Far East.

Mr. Looker—It seems to me that it is essential generally to British trade in the Far East that, at the present time, everyone engaged in British trade should have the opportunity of obtaining electrical machinery and appliances if they want them. One of the great troubles from which British trade suffers at the moment is that the machinery required cannot be obtained. It is through Messrs. Gerin, Drevard & Co. and Mr. Birrell that the Government are obtaining electric cables from America with which it is proposed to connect Hongkong with the islands.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—We could obtain them from America without any agency here.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER—You have told us that Mr. Birrell is a qualified engineer. I think he said before the Tribunal that he was not an engineer.

Mr. Looker—I may, perhaps, have loosely used a term which may, or may not, have misled you. As I understand it Mr. Birrell is what is known as a commercial engineer; that is to say a man who has been in engineering works where he has gained special experience and training and a thorough knowledge of the firm's machinery and appliances, which enables him to sell them and to see that they run after being set up, thus rendering him an expert on the subject.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER—I think it was also stated before the Tribunal that he does not set up machinery; that he does no more than sell machinery.

Mr. LOCKER—He does not think he has done more than sell it up to the moment, as the firm have nothing to set up.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Mr. Birrell made a point that he was going to run the Electric Company's plant. The Electric Company deny that.

Mr. LOCKER—I did not gather that he said he was going to run it. I understand he considered that if he supplied, or arranged for the supply of machinery from the Westinghouse people, he would have to set it right if it went wrong.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Has he the expert knowledge to do such a thing?

Mr. LOCKER—Yes.

The HON. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS asked what work Mr. Birrell had been trained in, and Mr. LOCKER replied that he was for three years in a steam engineer shop in Australia and he then went to the Westinghouse Company in Pittsburgh, where he remained for five years. He says he has a thorough experience in all the electrical machines the Westinghouse Company makes. He knows that they should run but I do not gather that he says he has set them up.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—When was the Dairy Farm contract signed?

Mr. LOCKER—It is not signed yet.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I thought it was referred to as an actual contract.

Mr. LOCKER—I do not know how it was referred to. I understand the position is that the Dairy Farm are contemplating extending their contract with the Government in connection with what they will want machinery for a tanning tin cases. They have asked for plans and specifications to be prepared for the machinery to be submitted to them. These plans are either wholly prepared or in course of preparation. The Dairy Farm have not accepted any contract or decided to set the machinery up at once.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I thought one of the letters stated there was a contract.

Mr. LOCKER—Plans and specifications. The letter of October 3rd states:—

"Further since that time we have entered into an agreement with the Dairy Farm Company for the making and supply of plans and specifications for erecting a new, large, and up-to-date port packing plant and meat-canning establishment."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There is no agreement.

Mr. LOCKER—Not yet.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is rather misleading.

Mr. LOCKER—They were asked to supply the plans and Mr. Birrell took it that if they supplied the plans they would erect the machinery.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Do they ever erect machinery? That is the point.

Mr. LOCKER—I do not think they erect machinery. Commercial men would be able to explain to the Council that when a Company purchased complicated machinery they were expected to put it up themselves. It was generally recognized that the Company would not buy it unless they knew all about it and could do so.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—That does not dispose of the point that the assumption was that a contract had been entered into for the erection of machinery.

Mr. LOCKER—Mr. Birrell, perhaps, is not so meticulous in writing his letters as a lawyer would be. He appears to have represented the position as understood it. Of course, it is quite clear that there is no actual contract yet. The Director of Public Works—Can the Dairy Farm get the current for the machinery if they erect it?

Mr. LOCKER—I really do not know what the plans are in that respect. They do not propose to erect it for a year or two except on a very small scale I understand.

Mr. HAY asked what steps had been taken to find a substitute for Mr. Birrell and whether it was possible to get a man from America.

Mr. LOCKER replied that Mr. Jenkin could not provide a substitute and that Mr. Birrell had tried to get another man from America without success.

Mr. CHAM added that he had tried to get a man from Manila but they all seemed prosperous and would not leave their jobs.

When Mr. LOCKER had explained that the firm's business consisted of selling electrical units and appliances, H.E. the Officer Administering the Government made the comment that business instinct seemed to be required more than expert knowledge. Mr. LOCKER replied that both were necessary.

The Council considered the matter in private and, subsequently, when Mr. Birrell and Mr. Gerin were recalled H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, addressing Mr. Birrell, said: The Appeal Council has decided to uphold the decision of the General Military Service Tribunal that no further exemption be granted to you. At the same time I wish to express the deep sense of the members of the Council of the war services rendered by Mr. Gerin.

THE INTERNATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION.

The last case considered was that in which Mr. Hogg, on behalf of the International Banking Corporation, appealed against the enrolment of Mr. D. Ritchie. Mr. Hogg said:—I am making this appeal on behalf of the International Banking Corporation in accordance with directions which I have received from the Bank's General Manager, who writes that it is impossible for him to have men shipped to replace those we have been losing either by reason of the Draft Act in America, or because they have gone to England to enlist. In other letters to the Clerk of the Tribunal, written by me at the time when two of the assistants in the employ of the Bank here were summoned to appear before that Tribunal, I pointed out that at the commencement of the war the foreign staff here of the Bank consisted of eight men; that two of these had left, and we were the carrying on the work of the Bank with a reduced staff of six men; and that a further reduction would

necessarily seriously impede the safe working of the business of the Bank. I may say that I did not apply for the exemption of Mr. Ritchie, as well as for that of Mr. Ritchie, because I felt it to be possible (unsafe though it might be) for the work of the Bank here to be done by a staff of five, at any rate, for a time. Notwithstanding this, Mr. Ritchie was granted three months' exemption only and this latter in spite of the Proper Military Authority expressing a strong opinion that no claim for Mr. Ritchie was given in the case now under trial regarding a forged document for \$150,000. I have been in under-staffed offices of the Bank and my experience is that the work necessary for the convenience of the public is precedent to anything else, while checking systems for the protection of the Bank against risks, such as the above, have to be left over until after office hours and cannot invariably be carried out as fully as they should. Any further reduction in the staff would render it impossible for due attention to be paid to all the details of the Bank's business by the few remaining members, and the result would almost inevitably be that trade interests would be likely to suffer. If Mr. Ritchie is taken, the Bank's General Manager will have to decide whether the business at this branch is to be cut down to a turn-over commensurate with the reduced staff or whether another and more innocent branch will have to spare me a senior assistant. I have, I believe, been suggested that this Bank, being an American institution, its interests are not so much in British trade as those of other Banks in the Colony. This is a wholly mistaken point of view—the interests of our Bank here are very largely wrapped up in British trade, while those of the Colony are, at the present time, closely associated with America as its principal market, and this close association is bound to grow. As I have already written, for the formation of the Tribunal, the Federal Reserve Board at Washington gave a ruling that the existence and proper carrying on of the business of this Bank, as also that of other American Banks with foreign branches, is necessary for the maintenance of American national interests, and therefore that no American members of its foreign staff were liable for military duty. I realise the necessity and justice of sacrifices for Imperial or American national interests, but where such a sacrifice appears to be detrimental to these interests, as in this case, I feel compelled to protest against its being offered. A similar protest has been made by managers of other Banks in the Colony, members of whose staff it has been proposed to enroll, and while a very small percentage of the pre-war staff of the Chartered Bank has been taken, and that of the Mercantile Bank not reduced at all, it has been decided by the Tribunal to reduce the pre-war staff of this Bank by one-half. In the case of this Bank, a staff of four men would be altogether insufficient to do the work done by a pre-war staff of eight. And I cannot think that your Excellency and the Honourable Members of this Council would be at all inclined—particularly at this time—to make invidious distinctions between this Bank (as being an American institution) and other British Banks in the Colony. The possibility of such a distinction being drawn is evidenced by the remarks of the Chairman of the Tribunal, addressed to the Manager of the Mercantile Bank:—"And also I suppose, you would claim that yours is a British Bank and the International Banking Corporation is an American Bank?" Whether that distinction was in fact drawn by some members of the Tribunal, and so influenced them to refuse exemption for Mr. Ritchie, I am, of course, unable to say. With regard to Mr. Ritchie personally, I should mention that a mistake was made in the report, which appeared in the newspapers, of the recent proceedings before the Tribunal. It is that report it is stated that, in answer to the question "How long have you been here?" Mr. Ritchie said "three and a half years in the International Banking Corporation; six years in the East." The actual question was "How long have you been in the International Banking Corporation?" and Mr. Ritchie stated that he had been in the employ of the Bank for eight and a half years, six of which he had spent in the East.

The CHAIRMAN—With regard to your Eastern branches, you mentioned that they are very short-handed and you also stated that they had not been brought within the Draft Law of the United States.

Mr. Hogg—Before that decision was arrived at the war the Registration Act, similar to the Attestation Act which was purely voluntary. A great number of young men registered in accordance with it. Two have gone home and we are endeavouring to have the others exempted. One went from Bombay and one, indirectly, from here. He went from here to Yokohama and then home.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the Government—in your opinion, or from your knowledge, it would be impossible to obtain men from your Eastern branches?

Mr. Hogg—Nothing is impossible, but it would mean reducing the business of these branches.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Are your men in America liable to conscription?

Mr. Hogg—Yes, only those abroad are not.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Do you know if they are being taken?

Mr. Hogg—They are being taken. Our office in New York is largely staffed by women.

H.E. the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the Government, having announced that the Council had received a letter dealing with the case from the American Consul-General, the matter was discussed in private. Subsequently, His Excellency informed Mr. Hogg that the Appeal Council had decided to revise the decision of the General Military Service Tribunal, and to grant total exemption to Mr. Ritchie.

FAR EASTERN CABLE NEWS.

(BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG HONG SAK PO.")

THE ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT.

Peking, October 10th.

At the election of Vice-President yesterday, Tso Kun obtained 340 votes; but as there was not a quorum present the election had to be postponed.

KX-PRESIDENT AND EX-PREMIER.

Tuan Chi-jui will resign the Premiership to-day.

Fung Kuo-chang will proceed to the South.

CANTON NEWS.

(BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG HONG SAK PO.")

CANTON, October 10th.

PANIC IN THE CITY.

A panic was created in the city yesterday, when gun-shots were heard. It was found that an officer of the Shin Hing troops had gone mad and fired at his companions. He was shot and order was soon restored by the police.

PROTECTION OF FOREIGNERS IN AMOY.

It is reported that since the training officer Shiu Wo and other gunboats have left Amoy, the foreigners there have requested the Fukien Tschun to see to their protection.

"HIRANO MARU" SUNK.

35 PASSENGERS AND 194 OF THE CREW MISSING.

The following cables were received yesterday, by the local office of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha from the Company's London office reporting the sinking of a.s. *Hirano Maru*:—

London, October 8th.

"Much regret inform you *Hirano Maru* torpedoed and sunk. Following passengers were safely landed—Wong Kwai, Wong King. Will wire immediately have further news."

London, October 8th.

"Cable of yesterday. *Hirano Maru* reported sunk in seven minutes. Thirty-one rescued from (her) later consisting of twelve passengers (one died) and nineteen crew, safely landed. Eighty-five passengers and 134 of the crew are missing. Few little hope for missing. No further additions to names sent yesterday."

SPORT.

GOLF.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW.

The draw for the Championship of the Royal Hongkong Golf Club is as follows:—

R. E. Lindell and F. A. Bedmond (bye); F. Syme Thomson and M. A. Murray (bye); W. Ross and E. Davidson; S. Evans and A. C. Leith; E. Des Vaux and N. J. Stabb; R. A. Lawson and Hon. Mr. D. Landale; L. N. Leefe and H. O. Sandford; Capt. C. H. Goode and J. Hooper; A. E. Stewart and G. S. Arobbutt; R. E. Macdonald and R. P. Thurnfield; F. de Borne and S. H. Dowdell (bye); E. J. Grist and A. Ritchie (bye).

The first and second rounds are to be played on or before Sunday, October 20th.

DRAW FOR THE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP.

W. J. Morrison and J. de B. Lancaster (bye); A. S. MacKichan and J. Gibb (bye); Comdr. Beckwith and A. Leach (bye); H. E. Hayward and Hon. Mr. E. J. Hall (bye); E. A. H. Lay and P. P. J. Woodhouse; E. E. de W. Abney and R. E. O. Bird; G. Hastings and M. Leith; F. C. Millington and H. A. Lamert; T. O. Nixon and H. J. Gedye; J. McHutchison and C. H. Gale; F. Soutar and R. M. Austin; Hon. Mr. A. M. Fletcher and H. W. Looker; Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson and J. Dauby; R. Malby and M. Mass; Col. Mayhew and J. F. van Buren; J. R. Kent and A. D. Humphreys; J. R. Scott and G. A. Woodcock (bye); T. R. Chasels and J. W. Frank (bye); the Hon. Mr. C. Severn and A. O. Lang (bye); G. M. Young (bye).

The first and second rounds are to be played on or before Sunday, October 20th.

WAR SAVINGS.

TWENTY-SECOND LIST OF THE LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

During last month War Loan to the value of \$141,947.43 (Straits Currency) was purchased by the Hongkong and South China War Savings Association for its members, who now number 1,140. The amounts paid in were invested in Straits Settlements War Loan at 5 per cent.

The total amount received to date is \$1,945,000 in local currency; \$327,028.19 in Straits currency; 211,805 5s. 2½d in sterling; £30,608.14; Yen 565; and Pes. 3,340.

PACIFIC FREIGHTS.

Some time ago the United States addressed an inquiry to the Japanese steamship companies to the maximum freight between America and the Orient with regard to a proposal, it is believed, to regulate freight rates. The Japanese companies have agreed upon suitable figures (says the *Japan Chronicle*) after protracted negotiations and reported to the American Government the following rates:—

\$60 from America to Japan; \$80 from America to Hongkong and Manila; \$85 from America to Shanghai; \$85 from America to Singapore; \$85 from Japan to America; \$60 from Hongkong, Shanghai and Manila to America (excluding \$15 per bale for hemp); and \$65 from Singapore to America (except for oil).

CORRESPONDENCE.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

SIR.—In the 10th inst. a new register of parliamentary electors comes into force in the British Isles, which will include practically every male resident British subject of full age (other than conscientious objectors), every woman of 30 years and upwards occupying a house of a yearly value of not less than 25 and every member of the Naval, Military and Air Forces of the Crown of the age of 19 and upwards, who would (but for the war) be resident in the British Isles. It is reported that Germany has this month adopted manhood suffrage and the principle of "one man one vote."

In Hongkong, out of a population of between half-a-million and one million, about 300 persons have votes (either as members of the Chamber of Commerce or Justices of the Peace, or both), for two members of the Legislative Council.

The Constitutional Reform Association has been taking an enforced rest owing to the absence of its President, Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer, but now that the President has returned it is to be hoped that the Association will take up the question of the extension of the suffrage.

You point out this morning that, had the Association proper activity, the electorate qualified to vote for two members of the Sanitary Board might have been used to return the two members of Council now appointed by the Governor. But it is too late to get now! Any appointment to fill the existing vacancy can only be provisional, and there is nothing to prevent the Association from selecting a progressive and independent candidate and submitting his name for nomination.

Such a candidate might give a pledge to resign, and submit himself to the electorate as soon as the necessary authority has been obtained to convert the two European nominated members into elected members—Yours truly,

F. B. L. BOWLEY.

THE BIG OPIUM CASE.

ATTEMPTING TO EXPORT 1,000 TALS TO MANILA.

JUDGMENT RESERVED.

At the Hongkong Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, a Chinese was charged, on remand, with attempting to smuggle 1,000 tals of opium valued at about \$14,500, to Manila by the s.s. *Lumpang Bay*.

Mr. Hall (of Messrs. Lo and Lo) appeared for the defence.

A Chinese detective stated that, on information received, he went to the steamer at 8 a.m. on October 3rd and searched the luggage, which was stored on the "lower deck." He found sixteen boxes marked "cube sugar," and asked the defendant, who was standing nearby, to whom they belonged. Defendant replied that the cargo belonged to him, and that it contained sugar. Witness then ordered defendant not to put the cargo into the hold till the Chief Officer had examined the contents. Another detective was set to watch defendant's movements while witness went in search of the Chief Officer. Later on the Chief Officer asked defendant to open one of the cases, and he did so. There were several tin boxes inside the case, and they contained cube sugar. Several other cases were opened and these, too, contained sugar, but when they came to the last case they found a thousand tins of opium in it. Defendant was arrested and taken to the Central Police Station. He told witness that he was living at No. 83, Connaught Road with his master. When witness visited the premises he found that all the tenants had disappeared.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hall, witness stated that defendant wanted to call his master while the boxes were being opened and asked the sampan people to inform his master of the search.

Cr. Sergeant Blackman stated that defendant denied all knowledge of the opium at the station. It was non-Government opium.

Mr. Hall contended that the prosecution had not proved guilty knowledge on the part of defendant, which was the most essential factor in a charge of this sort. "The onus was on the Police to prove that his client had previous knowledge of the matter, but they had not done this. His firm had received a letter from the defendant's master, who was in Canton, stating that defendant was not to blame for the attempt to export the opium; it was all the master's fault, as he had ordered defendant to take the luggage on board."

Mr. Wolfe: The only point is that at the Police Station defendant, in reply to Sergeant Blackman, stated that there was only one box of opium.

Mr. Hall replied that all the boxes were opened on the steamer in defendant's presence and, therefore, he knew of the contents.

Sergeant Blackman stated that the boxes were not opened enough for that.

Mr. Hall replied that they were sufficiently well-opened to "small the opium" if there were any. His contention was that defendant was an innocent agent, a tool—and if the magistrate accepted that submission he would ask for his client to be discharged.

Mr. Wolfe said he would like to consider the point and reserved judgment till to-day.

TYPHOON WARNING.

The following telegram has been received by the American Consulate-General, Hongkong, from the Manila Observatory:—

10.15 a.m., October 10th.

Oydoon or typhoon east of the South-east Ladrones or Mariana Islands, direction unknown.

(Other Local News will be found on Page 2.)

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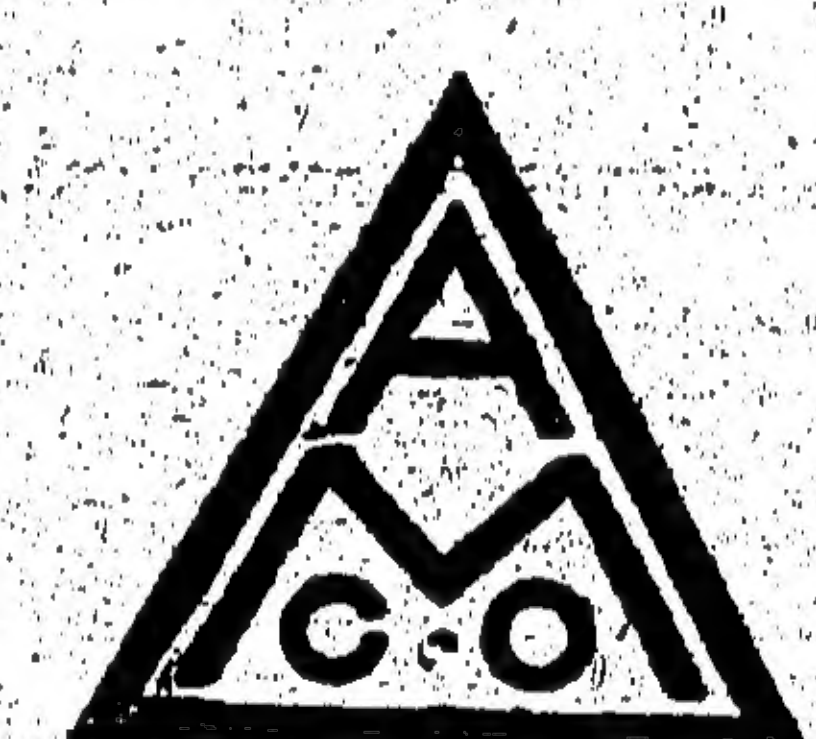
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THE WAR.

NEW ALLIED ADVANCE ON CAMBRAI-ST. QUENTIN FRONT: IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED.

BRITISH ENTER CAMBRAI AND THE FRENCH REACH THE OUTSKIRTS OF LAON.

SURRENDER OF 65,000 BULGARIANS.

TURKISH CABINET BREAKS UP.

MORE COMMENT ON GERMANY'S PEACE OFFER.

Franco-Belgian front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

BRITISH ENTER CAMBRAI.

LONDON, October 9th.

Sir Douglas Haig states:— Our Third and Fourth Armies resumed the attack this morning and are progressing rapidly everywhere.

We entered Cambrai and took 3,000 prisoners yesterday.

THE CAPTURE OF FORENVILLE.

LONDON, October 9th.

Sir Douglas Haig states:— We made further progress yesterday evening east of Sequehart and in the direction of Bohain and Maritz. We reached the western outskirts of Jellincourt and gained the line of the La-Targette-Cambrai road, capturing Forenville.

Our Third and Fourth Armies at 5.30 this morning re-attacked on the whole of their front, rapidly progressing everywhere.

MALINCOURT AND ESNEZ CAPTURED.

On the Americans' left the English, Scottish and Irish troops, including the Tenth, Twelfth and Sixty-Sixth Divisions, made equal progress and captured Servin early in the day.

In the centre the Anglo-Welsh of the Thirty-Eighth and Twenty-First Divisions broke through the German defences known as the Beaurivier-Mamieres line and captured Malincourt and the trench line to the west of Walincourt.

We encountered obstinate resistance from strong enemy forces, with machine-guns, at Villers-Outreux, which the Welsh captured after hard fighting.

On the left and centre the Thirty-Seventh and New Zealand Divisions also broke through the Beaurivier-Mamieres line, and made deep progress on the east of the line.

The New Zealanders stormed Les Dain and captured Esnez.

THE FRENCH-ROUVROY LINE TAKEN.

On the left of the attack our Second, Third and Sixth Divisions had hard fighting about Sampluville, Niergnies and along the line of the Esnes-Cambrai road.

The enemy strongly counter-attacked in this sector, using tanks, and pressed us back a short distance, but the counter-attack was stopped, and the enemy's tanks put out of action.

We took possession of Servinville and Niergnies and resumed our advance.

North of the Scarpe we completed the capture of the German trench system known as the Frenes-Rouvroy line, from the Scarpe to beyond Oppy, and captured Frenes, Neules, Mont Aaban, and Neuvireuil.

We took several thousand prisoners and many guns.

Progress continues on the whole front.

THE CAPTURE OF RAMILLIES.

LONDON, October 9th.

Sir Douglas Haig states:— Shortly after mid-night the Canadians attacked to the north of Cambrai.

Ramillies was captured and the crossings to the Canal de Lescant were secured in the neighbourhood of Ramillies.

We entered Cambrai yesterday. The prisoners exceed over 3,000. We took many guns.

ADVANCE ON TWENTY-ONE MILE FRONT.

LONDON, October 9th.

Reuter learns that to-day's offensive was comprised of three attacks by the British, French and Americans on the whole front between Cambrai and St. Quentin.

The French captured the hills to the east of Rouvroy and the villages of Esigny and Fontaine, while the British and Americans' line reached as follows: Beaurivier, Brancourt, through Premont, to Serain, Malincourt, to the west of Walincourt, Esnez and Niergnies, on to the old line south of Cambrai.

The advance was on a front of twenty-one miles with an average depth of two and a maximum depth of three.

Weak resistance than usual was encountered in the centre but the enemy brought up two fresh Divisions on the south of Cambrai and counter-attacked heavily, but was repulsed.

SUCCESS OF LATEST BRITISH ADVANCE.

LONDON, October 9th.

Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing yesterday evening, stated:—

Over 18 enemy Divisions were given, to-day, a terrible hammering by our Third and Fourth Armies with whom are strong American units. It is certain that the tremendous toll taken will have an effect upon the dwindling German manpower.

The operations at Cambrai and St. Quentin constituted a series of battles, developing one after another, all night long.

At daybreak yesterday at least 15 miles of the British front were advanced. Our infantry attacks generally progressed rapidly, although sticky points were encountered. The Welsh troops had a very tough task in breaking through the remainder of the Beaurivier-Mamieres line, but once the Germans were driven out, the Welshmen reached the open, the enemy broke.

AMERICANS REACH THE OPEN.

In the evening the New Zealanders carried Esnez taking over 700 prisoners. The German tanks were of a fairly fast type but the gunners soon got "on top of them" assisted by our low-flying aeroplanes.

The Americans have done brilliantly and have taken 1,600 prisoners in capturing Premont.

We are now well out in the open, rolling country.

Our casualties have been relatively light.

EVACUATION OF THE ST. GOBAIN MASSIF EXPECTED.

LONDON, October 8th.

A significant development is apparently at hand, owing to the new advance on the Cambrai-St. Quentin front.

We are now only two miles from Buligny, and eight from Le Cateau.

Another slight advance will give us the command of the Oise Valley and would compel the enemy to evacuate the St. Gobain Massif, also Laon, which is on fire.

BELGIANS REACH OUTSKIRTS OF ROULERS.

LONDON, October 9th.

A Belgian communiqué states:— The enemy at night violently bombarded our front line in the outskirts of Roulers. During the day we bombarded Nieupoort, and Clercken, also the back areas.

Enemy aeroplanes were very active, machine-gunning our front lines at Moggelaere and Paschendale.

NINE AEROPLANES DESTROYED.

PARIS, October 8th.

Sir Douglas Haig states:— We dropped 13 tons of bombs on different targets and attacked an aerodrome and railway near Lille, from a low altitude, with bombs and machine-guns.

Enemy aircraft was only active in the northern sector.

We destroyed nine aeroplanes and drove down a large number of our own.

Four British machines are missing.

Two British machines, reported missing yesterday, have now been located.

THROUGH GERMAN EYES.

LONDON, October 8th.

A German official statement says:— Fresh heavy fighting occurred between Cambrai and St. Quentin, in Champagne, and on the Maas.

We repulsed the enemy south of Cambrai and north of St. Quentin.

The enemy failed ground in the centre of the battle-front. At this point we are fighting west of Bohain, along the road from Bohain to Cambrai and St. Quentin.

FRENCH FRONT.

LONDON, October 9th.

A French communiqué states:— North-east of St. Quentin, the French in conjunction with the British, attacked this morning on a front of ten kilometres. In spite of stubborn resistance we penetrated strong positions and made important progress.

On the subject of the fighting conditions all day. The German situation vigorously to recover the captured positions. Their counter-attacks on the north bank, against Orainville and the St. Omer bridgehead were repulsed. Further east, the enemy several times unsuccessfully attempted to fight us from Bazancourt.

FRENCH REACH OUTSKIRTS OF LAON.

LONDON, October 8th.

A French communiqué states:— North of the Arne, the French and Americans gained fresh successes. Supported by tanks they drove back the enemy over three kilometres north of St. Pierre-Aapre.

On the right bank of the Aisne we captured the plateau north-east of Coutry and reached the southern outskirts of Laon, taking numerous prisoners.

BIG BATTLE EAST OF THE MEUSE.

LONDON, October 9th.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing yesterday afternoon, stated:—

There was an extension of the battle east of the Meuse. The entire front is active from Reuliers to Woerw. The offensive is, for the moment, heaviest in three main sectors, corresponding to the wings and the centre, namely Cambrai-St. Quentin sector, the Surppe sector, and the sector of the Meuse.

Marshal Foch, in the inter-mediate zone, contents himself with steady pressure for the moment.

General Mangin, between the Oise and the Aisne, is vigorously following every movement of the enemy.

The battle in Eastern Champagne has died down. Here the Germans have thrown in their reserves against our troops, who have been fighting without interruption for weeks.

Marshal Foch counters by extending the battle across the Meuse with the aid of his own American reserves. The Germans must again find reinforcements.

SPLENDID PROGRESS BY THE AMERICANS.

LONDON, October 8th.

An American official statement says:— We captured Courcy, and against stubborn fighting, continued to advance in the Argonne forest.

The French and Americans east of the Meuse brilliantly attacked in the vicinity of Bois-des-Canes and Bois-de-Aumont, occupied consecutively, Brabant, Haumont, and Beaumont, and drove the enemy well beyond them. We, in co-operation with the French, are pushing the enemy back from the scene of his desperate struggle for Verdun.

To-day's total of prisoners exceeds 3,000, of which 1,800 were taken by the French east of the Meuse.

This Command has taken over 4,000 prisoners in the last few days.

The French captured eighteen heavy trench-mortars.

HOW A BATTALION WAS RESCUED.

LONDON, October 8th.

Reuter's Correspondent at the American Headquarters, telegraphing on Tuesday afternoon, stated:—

Notable progress was made yesterday in the direction of (1) where we gained ground essential to our further advance, and captured the hill above Chatelet, Chatelet, squeezing out the enemy who is still lurking in the centre of the Argonne and south of Grandpre.

The most interesting event of the day was the extrication of a battalion, isolated and surrounded by the enemy in the Argonne Forest for the past five days. In the advance this battalion lost touch with the troops on either side and the enemy, striking between, severed the connection.

Its plight was known and several attempts were made by the French and ourselves to relieve it, but all were unsuccessful. Aeroplanes swooping down in the dense forest, dropped food and ammunition in baskets to the place it was supposed to be, but last night our advance rescued the battalion.

LAON IN FLAMES.

LONDON, October 8th.

A Havas message says:— Germany is to be warned that the wanton devastation of France, and the destruction of her historic towns, will be punished to the last degree of severity. Laon is in flames.

The West Front is quieter. The Germans are making desperate efforts to hold the French on either side, and several runs the "Hunding" line, a series of fortresses.

Mezieres, the most important junction in north-east France, and about 30 miles from Berry-au-Bac, has been captured.

The Germans are defending Lille with heavy guns.

The disorganization of the German Army is most pronounced. Some units are hopelessly mixed while others are scattered, which caused even to the cathedral and the other churches. The soldiers were granted formal permission to plunder.

A Polish National Army has been organized in France. General Haller is in command.

THE CAPTURE OF BAZANCOURT.

LONDON, October 8th.

A French communiqué states:— The artillery duel on the north of St. Quentin continued all night long.

On the "St. Quentin" front we reached the outskirts of Coude and penetrated to the Isles on the Surppe.

We captured Bazancourt in spite of very violent enemy counter-attacks, which were all in vain.

FRENCH MAKE PROGRESS EVERYWHERE.

LONDON, October 8th.

The French made progress everywhere in spite of the fiercest enemy resistance. French forces took St. Mame and Haiving.

THE "MOST FATAL" POSSIBILITIES.

AMSTERDAM, October 9th.

A telegram from Constantinople states that the Bulgarian Minister who was recalled by telegram from his summer residence, at Tassin, strongly urged the Government to prepare for "even the most fatal possibilities."

THE EX-KING'S RESIDENCE.

AMSTERDAM, October 9th.

Ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has arrived at Coburg, where he will take up his residence permanently.

SERBIAN GOVERNMENT TO MOVE TO USKUB.

LONDON, October 9th.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has entered Uskub, where the Serbian Government is immediately proceeding.

TURKISH CABINET BREAKS UP.

LONDON, October 8th.

The Daily News Correspondent at Berns understands that the Turkish Cabinet has fallen.

IMPORTANT RESIGNATIONS.

LONDON, October 8th.

Enver Pasha, Minister of War, and Talaat Pasha, Prime Minister, have resigned. Tewfik Pasha has been appointed Grand Vizier.

Tewfik Pasha was an Ambassador at London. He is a pro-Entente.

SURRENDER OF 65,000 BULGARIANS.

LONDON, October 8th.

An official statement from Salonika says:—

In addition to the prisoners already reported in the victorious Macedonian offensive, 65,000 Bulgars west of Uskub have now surrendered to the Allies in accordance with the clause in the military convention providing for the capitulation of Bulgarian units which were on the west of Uskub when the Armistice was signed.

MONTENEGRO'S OPPOSITION.

LONDON, October 8th.

The Evening News states that the Montenegrins have risen against the Austrians. A large number of well-armed Montenegrins hold the mountains, making the position of Austrians in Albania more precarious.

A FURTHER AUSTRIAN RETIREMENT.

LONDON, October 8th.

An Austrian official statement says:— We have withdrawn our covering troops from the old Serbian frontier towards Leskovac.

DEFEATED AUSTRIANS FALLING BACK.

LONDON, October 8th.

The defeated Austrians have fallen back in disorder, leaving cannon and material in our hands.

GERMAN BANK AT SOFIA CLOSED.

LONDON, October 8th.

The offices of the German Bank in Sofia have been closed.

The Near East.

LATEST CABLES.

GOVERNOR OF SMYRNA.

AMMAN, October 8th.

The Governor of Smyrna, whom the Germans recently deposed, as a pro-Entente, has been deputed to Athens to enter into contact with the Allies.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED.

LONDON, October 8th.

Reuter is informed that the significant action of the Governor of Smyrna, who controls the richest Turkish Province, taken in conjunction with recent events in Palestine and Macedonia, seems to foreshadow important developments.

The Governor is known to be a patriotic Turk, but is not to the same degree under German influence as the statesmen in Constantinople.

The liberation of Beyrout is a tremendous political blow to Turkey and should speedily compel the Turks to reach a decision.

THE CAPTURE OF BEYROUT.

PARIS, October 8th.

Beirut has been captured.

It was a French Naval Division which entered the Port of Beirut and not French troops as stated previously.

CONTINUED PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

PARIS, October 8th.

An official statement from Palestine says:— Our cavalry on October 6th occupied Zable and Rayak, respectively 33 and 30 miles north-west of Damascus. We captured considerable rolling stock, ammunition and engineering stores.

The enemy evacuated Beirut and returned towards the north.

We occupied Saida without opposition. The inhabitants welcomed us.

Aerial Activities.

PARIS, October 8th.

A German aeroplane attacked and set on fire a Swiss captive balloon on the frontier at midnight. The Swiss observer was burned to death.

IMMEDIATE APOLOGIES.

BERNE, October 8th.

The German Minister visited the President and apologised for the burning of the balloon. He promised to hold an immediate enquiry.

GERMANY'S PEACE OFFER.

LONDON, October 8th.

The German Armistice and Peace Note reached Washington on Sunday. It is understood that President Wilson will not reply till he has consulted the European Governments. President Wilson is now in touch with them.

All America is solid that no parity is possible.

The American Press rejects the peace proposal, pointing out its hypocrisy. The only act in which the Allies can trust Germany is unconditional surrender.

The Allied Press is perfectly unanimous. It is agreed that no terms but unconditional surrender must be insisted on. The German request for an armistice has demonstrated perfect unanimity to free the world of the Kaiser. The criminal in the dock cannot be allowed to dictate the conditions of his trial.

AMERICA'S REPLY AWAITED.

WASHINGTON, October 8th.

President Wilson spent the morning in seclusion and study, and later had a conference with Mr. Robert Lansing, Mr. Conrad, Col. House, and Mr. Tamm, after which it was announced that an important statement would probably be made this afternoon.

AMERICAN LABOUR OPINION.

WASHINGTON, October 8th.

The American Federation of Labour has issued a statement, urging the ignoring of the enemy overtures "until the road to Berlin is cleared."

NO REPLY TO AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS CONTEMPLATED.

WASHINGTON, October 8th.

It is officially announced that no answer to the Austrian peace proposals is contemplated at present.

AN UNANIMOUS NEGATIVE.

LONDON, October 8th.

The newspapers revert to the German peace offer and state that the Allies' reply may be described as an unanimous negative.

They anticipate that President Wilson will give the Note a reasoned reply, but state that the animosity of the American Press in denouncing the proposal indicates the line President Wilson will take.

PEACE NOTES FORMALLY HANDED OVER.

WASHINGTON, October 7th.

The Austrian and German Peace Notes were formally handed to President Wilson by the Swedish and Swiss Ministers respectively.

THE TRAIL OF THE GERMAN.

LONDON, October 8th.

Descriptions of correspondents in France of the looting and burning of towns and villages and the destruction of churches by the retreating Germans are made a special feature of in newspaper editorials, as unlikely to make President Wilson modify the terms of surrender.

They are made the text for demands of fullest reparation and an indemnity both for Belgium and France.

STOPOFF OF RAW MATERIALS.

The Daily Express counsels the stoppage of raw materials to Germany until all accounts have been settled.

NO AMERICAN REPLY YET.

WASHINGTON, October 8th.

It was officially announced on Monday evening that no answer had yet been sent to Germany's peace proposal.

GERMAN PRESS COMMENT.

AMSTERDAM, October 8th.

Through a mass of German newspaper comment of the Chancellor's speech runs a note of sceptical fear as regards President Wilson's reception of the peace proposals.

Coupled with the comments are feverish appeals for national unity in the forthcoming fight to the death, clearly showing that acceptance of the proposals is not expected and that the main purpose of the German Government is to gird up the people for a further struggle and coming disappointments.

The Berliner Tageblatt says:—

The cry heard on all sides in Berlin on Saturday night, when the crowds round the speech by the lights of the street lamps, was "That means peace has arrived." The journal, however, is not hopeful in this connection.

The Cologne Gazette, foreshadowing the rejection of the Note says:— "After such a humiliation, we shall again reply with our military."

THE AUSTRIAN PRESS.

STOCKHOLM, October 8th.

A telegram from Petrograd states that the ex-Premier M. Trepoff, and the ex-Minister of War M. Gutchenkoff, were executed by shooting.

TWO MORE "EXECUTIONS."

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HONGKONG METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

Hongkong Observatory, October 10th.

	Previous Day at 5 p.m.	On Date at 8 a.m.	On Date at 3 p.m.
Barometer	29.97	30.01	29.95
Temperature	73	71	81
Humidity	83	85	56
Wind Direction	East	calm	East
Force	5	0	2
Weather	...	b	b
Rain

Highest open-air temperature on 9th 79
Lowest open-air temperature on 10th 71

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JOHN BURNS AND THE PRESS
"IMPROPER EXPRESSIONS."

In the House of Commons, on July
24th, on the motion for the third reading
of the Statutory Undertakings (Tempo-
rary Increase of Charges) Bill, as amend-
ed.

Mr. Farrell moved the rejection of the
bill as a protest on behalf of Irish con-
sumers of gas.

Mr. Burns, in seconding, said that as
to the implication that those who opposed
the bill were a type of Bolshevik who
wanted to represent property in its rights
and privilege in its perquisites, the only
Bolsheviks in that House were the financial
Bolsheviks, who by revolutionary and
confiscatory measures robbed other people.
The programme of Mr. Tennant was mail-
clerk imperialism abroad and iron clad
plutocracy at home. (Laughter.)

What does this difference mean to
London? (The right hon. gentleman pro-
ceeded.) If the London County Council
were to raise rates a farthing in the
pound for trams over Westminster Bridge
for a new park at Bermondsey or
Deptford, the Yellow Press, led by *The
Times*—and hon. members must agree
with my definition which I gave years ago
of them—"the Yellow Press"—led by the
Daily Mail and the *Evening News*, and
papers of that type owned by black-
guards, edited by ruffians, read by fools."
(Cheers.)

The Speaker: I do not know to whom
the right hon. gentleman is referring.
If he is referred to a noble lord in an-
other place—

Mr. Burns: On the contrary.

The Speaker: To whom is the right
hon. gentleman referring?

Mr. Burns: I was quoting a statement
I made years ago in this House. I now
repeat the actual statement. I said if the
County Council were to ask for a park at
Bermondsey or Deptford, or for the
trams over Westminster Bridge, we should
have the Yellow Press newspapers saying
the County Council were financial ras-
cals, that they were rascals who ought
to be turned out of office.

The Speaker: I took no objection to
any of that. The objection I took was to
the expression of the right hon. gentle-
man that a certain newspaper was owned
by blackguards.

Mr. Burns: The statement I made
was that when an election took place the
yellow press, which I described years ago,
and recent events have amply confirmed
my present definition and forecast—I
said the yellow press was owned by black-
guards, edited by ruffians, read by fools.
That is the statement I made in this
House. I repeat it to-day. (Cheers.) If
you say it is unparliamentary and out of
order I withdraw it.

The Speaker: Most certainly. The
leading English paper to which the right
hon. gentleman referred, the *Times*, is
owned by a member of the other House.
To refer to a member of the other House
as a blackguard is an expression which
is not permitted here, and it certainly
would not be permitted in the other
House.

Mr. Pringle: Is it not the fact that
the paper to which the right hon. gentle-
man referred is owned by a company?

Mr. Burns: I do not know. I am
sure I have always understood that
Lord Northcliffe was the owner of *The
Times*. (Cries of "No.") Then it makes
it worse, because it is other gentlemen
he refers to. There can be absolutely no
justification to use that phraseology
about anybody, whether he is a member
of the other House or is not. I call upon
the right hon. gentleman to withdraw.

Mr. Burns: I mentioned no member
of the other House. (Cheers.)

The Speaker: I say the right hon. gen-
tleman has no business to refer to the
owner or owners of a newspaper as being
blackguards. That is the point.

Mr. Burns: I mentioned no member
of Parliament—no member of the House
of Lords. (Cries of "Withdraw!") I
shall obey the Speaker and no one else.
(Cries of "Order!") If you, Mr.
Speaker, decide now—and it is a very
serious decision—I respect your decision.
I have been twenty-six years a member
of the House and never come into conflict
with the Chair, and do not intend to. If
you say I ought to withdraw, when I
did not mention the name of a member
of Parliament or a member of the House
of Lords, I, of course, respect your de-
cision, and I will withdraw, but I men-
tioned no poets and no commoners.

The Speaker: I do most certainly say
that for the right hon. gentleman of
all people to get up in this House and
name certain newspapers, and then to
say they are owned by blackguards, edited
by ruffians, and read by fools, I think
is utterly disorderly, unparliamentary,
most unprovoked—(cries of "No" and
cheers)—and I am astonished that the
right hon. gentleman, with his great ex-
perience of the House, should have per-
mitted himself to use such expressions.
(Cheers.)

Mr. Burns: I was under the impres-
sion that the rules of this House allowed
a member freedom of speech. That so
long as he did not make a personal re-
flection on any member, either of the
public or of this or another House, he
was entitled to choose his own language
in so doing, and I had the honour of
repeating a statement which I made when
you yourself were in the Chair, and I
thought I was justified, having made it
then, to repeat it now. But if during
the war we are to have another stand-
ard—(Cheers.)

The Speaker: The right hon. gentle-
man is contesting my ruling, and will
not accept my statement. I have pointed
out that I think those expressions are
very improper. I cannot say at this time
whether were used before. I should like
to have the reference; but I do suggest
to him he should withdraw those ex-
pressions. He of all persons would object
to being designated in those terms, and I
am sure he would not wish to apply to
others terms by which he would not like
to be designated himself. (Cheers.)

(Continued at foot of next column.)

RAPACIOUS RICKSHA-COOLIE
MAGISTRATE RELATES HIS OWN
EXPERIENCE.

At the Hongkong Magistracy, yester-
day, before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, a Chinese
ricksha coolie was charged with demand-
ing more than the legal fare from Mrs.
Rolle, wife of Mr. Rolle of the Imports
and Exports Office, and with behaving in
a disorderly manner.

Inspector Gordon stated that complain-
ant engaged defendant's ricksha at the
Kowloon Ferry to take her to the new
railway quarters in Gascoigne Road, near
the Gun Hill Club. The usual fare of
ten cents was tendered the defendant, who
grew abusive and spat at Mrs. Rolle's
face. The defendant insisted on being
paid fifteen cents, though five cents was
the legal fare.

Complainant bore out Inspector Gor-
don's statement, and added that at the
time she was alone and unable to do any-
thing. Defendant threw the ten-cent piece
at her and spat on her. Witness usually
paid the coolies ten cents for a trip be-
tween the two places mentioned by Inspec-
tor Gordon.

Defendant denied abusing or spitting
on complainant. He stated that when
he was given ten cents he appealed for
an additional five cents. This the lady
refused to give him. She took the ten
cents from his hand and went into her
house. He went away without speaking
a word.

Mr. Wolfe remarked that defendant, if
he thought he had a right to five cents
more than was tendered him, should have
gone to the Police and informed them.
He was sure that defendant would not
have said "Thank you" in a gentle man-
ner and have gone away (laughter). His
experience of ricksha and chair coolies
taught him that they were never satisfied
and would always mutter something about
one's ancestors or some other person.

Inspector Gordon observed that ricksha
coolies, if they were not sufficiently paid,
always complained to the Police through
their foreman. The Police had always
assisted them in the recovery of the legal
payment, and defendant should have
sought their assistance.

Mr. Wolfe said he would discharge de-
fendant on the first charge as he thought
the houses in question were situated on
the borderland. If defendant thought
he had been insufficiently paid, he should
have appealed to the Police, as he knew
complainant's address. He (Mr. Wolfe)
was satisfied that defendant had behaved
in a grossly disgraceful manner to the
lady. He fined him \$20 with the alterna-
tive of a month's hard labour.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

A YOUTH'S CRIME.

A Chinese youth was sentenced by Mr.
Wood to undergo three months' hard
labour and to receive twelve strokes with
the birch for snatching a gold-mounted
rattan handle from a little child at Hung-
hom on Wednesday afternoon.

AN OPIUM CASE.

A Chinese was charged with being in
unlawful possession of eleven tael of
opium.

Inspector Gordon stated that defendant
was arrested at Sheklung while on his
way by train to Canton, with the opium
concealed round his waist.

The defendant affirmed that he was car-
rying the opium in a basket and not
round his waist.

A revenue officer stated that two tael
of opium were found underneath the mat-
tress in the train.

Mr. Wolfe fined defendant \$200, with
the alternative of two months' hard
labour.

THEFT OF MONEY AND CLOTHING.

A Chinese was charged with stealing
money and clothing, to the value of \$72,
on board the *Sun Hong*.

Sergeant Pitt stated that on Sunday
last the defendant was observed leaving
the Lee Kee Wharf with a basket. A
lukong stopped him and asked him for
the key of the basket, but defendant was
unable to produce it. The *lukong* then
arrested defendant for being in unlawful
possession. Defendant refused to go to
the Police Station and created a distur-
bance. It took four men to restrain him.
At the station another Chinese claimed
the basket as his property.

Defendant stated that the story was a
false one made up by the *lukong*, who
assaulted him. He was merely going on
board the steamer to see some of his *foks*
about some money. As the result of the
assault he had to be sent to hospital for
treatment.

Sergeant Pitt stated that defendant had
been banished twice before.

Mr. Wood sentenced defendant to six
months' hard labour.

JAPANESE SHIPS UNDER AMERI-

CAN CHARTER.

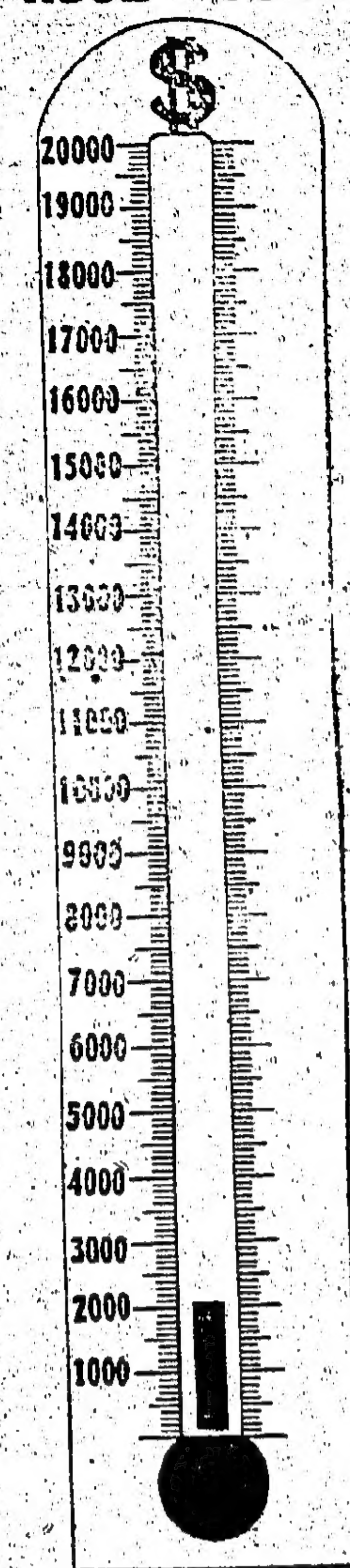
The 150,000 tons of Japanese steamers
chartered to the United States are to be
released after December, while from
150,000 to 160,000 tons of shipbuilding
materials to be supplied under the second
agreement for building steamers with
American materials are to be shipped
after December.

Mr. Burns: I am too old a Parliam-
entary hand to damage my position in
this House and the cause I represent by
quarrelling or disagreeing with the
Chair. I accept your advice, Mr.
Speaker. (Cries of "Withdraw.") I do
so. (Cries of "Say so.") I have said
so. (Cries of "Withdraw.") I with-
draw, Mr. Speaker. That is what I
meant by saying I accepted your advice.
(Cheers.)

The incident then closed.

The amendment for rejection was
negatively without a division, and the
bill was read a third time.

LADY MAY'S
ROSE FUND



Subscriptions received LAST YEAR
by Lady May previous to "OUR DAY"
amounted to \$13,331.00 and it is hoped
that subscriptions this year will exceed
\$20,000. All subscriptions will be
acknowledged in the newspapers and the
thermometer altered to show the
amounts received to date. It is hoped
that residents in the ports of South
China, who will be unable to visit
Hongkong on "OUR DAY," will avail
themselves of this opportunity to
subscribe to the Fund through this
medium. All subscribers will receive a
special rose.

Subscriptions should be addressed
LADY MAY'S ROSE FUND,
Government House,
Hongkong.

[2509]



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Where would you be if
those brave boys were not
guarding your interests.
It is your duty to guard
their interests should they
fall, so buy St. Andrew's
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Hongkong St. Andrew's Society

WAR BOND DRAWING

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Clubs and Stores.

[2325]

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For Demand Drafts on London on the day
of or preceding the departure of the
English Mails; also Table of the
Yearly Approximate Average

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Managing Agents.

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(NEWBURN & BUCKNALL STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.)

JAPAN, CHINA AND STRAITS

UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

Steamers proceed via Suez Canal or Cape of Good Hope at Owners' option. Subject to change without notice.

For particulars of sailings shippers are requested to apply to the undersigned.

THE BANK LINE LIMITED.
General Agents.

C. N. C. CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO	DATE
SWATOW and BANGKOK	"LIANGCHOW"	On 11th	Oct. 9 A.M.
SHANGHAI	"KAIFONG"	On 12th	Oct. 3 P.M.
TSINGTAO and TIENTSIN	"KUIHONG"	On 13th	Oct. Noon
SHANGHAI	"SUNNING"	On 17th	Oct. 1 P.M.

SHANGHAI LINE-PASSENGERS, MAIL and CARGO. Excellent Saloon accommodation, Ample Electric Light and Fans in Saloon and State-rooms. Regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong, and Shanghai, taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Woosung.

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(Occupying 8 to 10 Days).

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BRITISH INDIA S. N. CO., LTD.

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SOUTHWARD

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UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

TO

MARSEILLES AND LONDON.

TAKING PASSENGERS AND CARGO TO

STRAITS, COLOMBO, INDIA, AUSTRALASIA, EGYPT, &c.

Steamer	Leave Hong Kong	Connecting Mail	Due at	Due at
COLONIA	Nov. 1st	Str. from Colombo	MARSEILLES	LONDON

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO. Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking. On the Australian Route Passengers interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO

SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

8.8

Leave Hong Kong About

Passengers may travel by Railway in Japan between Ports of Call free of charge.

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(Non-Transshipment)

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice. Any damaged packages must be left in the hold for examination by the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GOSWAMI & CO., at 10 A.M. on MONDAY and TUESDAY. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which time they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Steamer. For Further Information, Passage Fares, Freight, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to—

E. L. KNIGHT,
Acting Superintendent.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(JAPAN MAIL S.S. CO.)

SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

DESTINATION	STEAMER & DISPLACEMENT	SAILING DATE
SHANGHAI KOBE & YOKOHAMA	KAGA MARU 12,300 tons	Wed. 30th Oct. 11 A.M.
NAGASAKI KOBE & YOKOHAMA	AKI MARU 12,300 tons	Sat. 19th Oct. 11 A.M.
	NIKKO MARU 9,800 tons	Sat. 14th Dec. 11 A.M.
SHANGHAI MOJI & KOBE	TOTOMI MARU 7,000 tons	Fri. 18th Oct.
LONDON or LIVERPOOL via SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, DELAGOA BAY & CAPE TOWN		
KEELUNG via MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, THUR, IS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE & SYDNEY		
NEW YORK via SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO & PANAMA CANAL		
BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO		
CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG & RANGOON		

§ Omitting Shanghai and/or Moji. § Wireless telegraphy.

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Next Sailing from Hongkong:

KATORI MARU ... Sat. 9th Oct. at 11 A.M.
SUWA MARU ... Thurs. 14th Nov. at 11 A.M.

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For further information apply to—

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.
H. MORI, Manager.

Telephone 333 and 335

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FAST AND LUXURIOUS MAIL STEAMERS

Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Change Without Notice.

Steamer	Tons	Leave Hongkong
KOBEA MARU	30,000	SAT. 2nd Nov.
SINBIA MARU	30,000	TUES. 19th Nov.
TENYO MARU	22,000	MON. 26th Nov.
SHINYU MARU	22,000	WED. 18th Dec.

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HONGKONG via PAMPARISO via JAPAN, HONOLULU, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN PEDRO, SANTIAGO, BALBOA, CALLAO, ARICA, and YQUIQUE. THENCE BY TRANS-ANDRAN ROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES.

Steamer	Tons	Leave Hongkong
NIPPON MARU	11,000	Nov. 8th

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NORTH AMERICAN LINE—Regular fortnightly services between Hongkong and Japan, round ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan.

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TAKAO via SWATOW and AMOY.

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